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THE BALTIMORE SUN

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BALL CALLS FOR END TO CUBA ISSUE

Congress Is Urged To Halt Attacks On Kennedy Policy

Washington, Feb. 10 (AP)—George W. Ball, Under Secretary of State, called earnestly today for an end to congressional attacks on the Administration's Cuban policy, saying it is time to put the issue in perspective.

Showing visible emotion, the State Department's No. 2 man, said President Kennedy's resolution to defend the vital interests of the United States has been made clear "beyond any possibility of challenge" and added:

"It is a little extraordinary that we keep hectoring one another," and suggested the Cuban issue now be dropped.

Charge Revived

Ball's appeal came a few hours after a Republican Senator had revived the charge that Kennedy and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev made a missiles deal in the Cuban crisis. A Democratic colleague rebuked him for making such a claim.

Ball, in a television interview (ABC—'Issues and Answers') said the charge was "a distortion of the intelligence gathering process."

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...leased their own reports on Soviet military strength in Cuba.

But he declined, in answer to a question, to say the storm kicked up by continuing reports of a Soviet military build-up in Cuba has been motivated by politics.

Ball said Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense, already has gone further than his intelligence advisers are presenting the facts of the situation to the nation in a nationally televised report last Wednesday.

Can't Prove It

Senator Scott (R., Pa.) said he can't prove it but suspects "there may have been some kind of understanding... between Khrushchev and our President whereby before the election Khrushchev would remove the (Cuba) missiles and after the election we could abandon our bases along the Mediterranean."

Senator Clark (D., Pa.), appearing with Scott on the same taped television program, called his colleague's statement "inaccurate and untrue." He said such "rash talk" does "grave disservice to our foreign policy and is not in the national interest."

Administration officials have denied that the removal of Jupiter missiles from Turkey and Italy had any connection with the Cuban crisis. Dependence will be put on Polarise submarines in the Mediterranean in the future. Official sources have said the decision to replace the vulnerable Jupiters with much more nearly invulnerable Polarises was taken long before the Cuban crisis.

At the height of the Cuban crisis, Khrushchev suggested a Turkey-Cuba missiles bargain. But after Kennedy declined to discuss the matter pending removal of the Soviet threat from Cuba, the Russian leader did not mention it publicly again.

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Drop Cuba Issue Congress Urged

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amid a barrage of Republican suggestions on what to do about Cuba and of criticism of the Kennedy Administration policies with regard to the threat of communism in the Western Hemisphere.

New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller said the Communist stronghold in Cuba may result in "a very dangerous undermining of the fabric of government, of law and order, and of the opportunity for social and economic advance and growth" in all of Latin America.

Senator Keating (R., N.Y.), who taped a television program with Rockefeller as a guest, said the Soviet build-up in Cuba "has turned the island into a base for subversion and terrorism throughout the hemisphere."

Claims Attack By Reds

Keating, who has entered the Kennedy Administration, has not told the full story of Cuba, said he was attacked recently by Radio Moscow as one of those in Congress who "want to stir up war hysteria."

"This places me under attack from two quarters—those inside the United States who cry 'politics' every time our Government is criticized and those behind the Iron Curtain who are working feverishly to build up Cuba as a Communist base in the Western Hemisphere," he said.

In another recorded radio interview "MBS—Reporters Roundup," Keating insisted the facts he has advanced about Soviet military strength in Cuba have been confirmed by Administration sources but he and they differ on the interpretation of these facts.

Keating reiterated "I do not favor an invasion" to force the Removal of Cuba.